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to look clear beyond the usual criticisms of Pope—the prose brilliancies, the philosophical superficialities, and all that, and to find his real worth is no small achievement.

THE CAREER OF LEONARD WOOD. By Joseph Hamblen Sears. New York: D. Appleton and Company.

Mr. Sears has written an excellent, straightforward account of his subject—an account not too eulogistic to be convincing; neither so heavy as a sketch from a biographical dictionary, nor so *ex parte* as a campaign document. The author does not speak of Wood as if this well-deserving soldier and citizen were a Washington or a Lincoln; yet he does successfully emphasize solid achievements and strong traits traditionally American—sterling character, a large and realistic grasp of situations; above all, that ability to get big things done without fuss, lacking which, high character has merely an exemplary value.

Leonard Wood was born in the little town of Winchester, New Hampshire, on October 9, 1860. His early years were spent on Cape Cod, the physical conformation of which, suggesting “a doubled-up arm with a clenched fist,” the biographer quaintly imagines to be a symbol of Leonard Wood’s character. Whatever may be the significance of Cape Cod, rugged strength of character seems to have been an endowment of Wood’s from his youth up.

After graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1884, he spent the usual period of probation as an intern in a hospital, and then began practicing in Boston. But he wanted action, and he craved an outdoor life. Thus when the opportunity came to him to enter the army as a surgeon, he readily embraced it. He was first ordered to duty at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor, but he remained at this post only a few days. In June, 1885, in response to his own request for “action,” he was ordered to Arizona to report to General Crook on the Mexican border near Fort Huachuca.

In the last of the Indian fighting, the campaign against the Apaches under Geronimo, the young Army Surgeon distinguished himself for fighting qualities and for leadership. Years later he was awarded for his Indian work the Congressional Medal of Honor—a rare and much-coveted prize. More precious still was the consciousness that he had won the genuine respect of all the real men with whom he had associated in the army.

In 1895 Wood was ordered to Washington to become Assistant Attending Surgeon. In this capacity, he became the personal friend of both Cleveland and McKinley. In 1896 he was introduced to Theodore Roosevelt, and the friendship between these two men, who were in many respects vitally alike, lasted without a break until Roosevelt’s death. Wood and Roosevelt agreed upon the necessity of military preparedness, and upon the moral obligation of this country to intervene in behalf of Cuba. “Have you and Theodore declared war yet?” President McKinley would inquire in the days before the war with Spain. And the reply would be, “No, we think you ought to, Mr. President.”

Wood came out of the Spanish War a Brigadier General of Volunteers. The city of Santiago had been surrendered on July 17, 1898. On the twentieth, General Wood was summoned by General Shafter, commanding the American forces, and informed that he had been detailed to take command of the city, secure and maintain order, feed the starving, and reorganize generally. What he achieved is a matter of history. The difficulties of the task, however, can be but imperfectly realized by one who has not read some such account of the matter as Mr. Sears concisely and effectively gives. Unspeakable sanitary conditions had to be overcome; the people had to be taught respect for law and order and confidence in American justice. All this was done not only with efficiency, but with notable absence of friction.

In December, 1899, less than a year after the United States took over the Island, General Wood was appointed by President McKinley Governor General of Cuba and made a Major General of United States Volunteers. The new task, as Mr. Sears points out, was by no means merely the continuation of the work at Santiago on a larger scale. This statement holds true even if one regards sanitation alone. "It was possible in an epidemic to close up houses temporarily, stop business and commercial intercourse for a period, where only 50,000 people were concerned. But to stop the daily commerce of a large city, the capital of a state, was out of the question." If one looks at the problem as a whole, one perceives that the situation called not only for administrative talents of a high order, but for unusual breadth and steadiness of vision. The task of reorganizing Cuba for the benefit of the Cubans was a new thing: nothing quite like it had ever been undertaken before in the whole history of the world. The work was done as quietly and effectively as if the problem of making over a country without exciting the enmity of its inhabitants and of getting those inhabitants to adapt themselves to the new order of things were merely a matter of well-understood routine. Mr. Sears gives the facts that justify Theodore Roosevelt's statement in *The Harvard Graduates Magazine*, in 1901: "Leonard Wood four years ago went down to Cuba, has served there ever since, has rendered services to that country of the kind which if performed three thousand years ago would have made him a hero mixed up with a sun god in various ways."

In 1903, Wood went to the Philippines as Governor General of the Moros. Two years later, after a visit to the United States, he returned as Commander-in-Chief of the American forces in the Philippines. By 1908, his work in those islands—a work calling for the qualities of a statesman—was practically completed. The whole story, as Mr. Sears more than once remarks concerning Wood's achievements, "might be told in words of one syllable." These were typically American accomplishments—simple, but difficult.

It is much that in twenty-two years, General Wood, beginning his army life as a surgeon rose to the highest position in the Regular Army that any one may hold; it is far more that he became a mightily effective influence for patriotism. What one gathers from Mr. Sears's narrative, however, is the consistency of the whole career.

Wood's experience in the Indian wars, his struggles with red tape and inefficiency before and during the Spanish War, his work as an administrator in Cuba and in the Philippines, his thorough studies of the military policies and methods of foreign nations, his conferences with men like Lord Roberts and Lord Cromer, all helped to make him a great carrier and exponent of efficient patriotic service. Most of us now see that he and Roosevelt were profoundly and thoroughly and comprehensively right in the stand that they took on preparedness; and the country owes a great debt to both these men. Yet when, on his return from a visit to the French front in 1917, General Wood asked to be reinstated in his command of the Eighty-ninth Division and sent abroad, his request was refused.

A GOLDEN AGE OF AUTHORS. By William W. Ellsworth. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

For a bookish man there is keen pleasure in reading such reminiscences as Mr. Ellsworth has furnished. There is delight in simply being in the literary atmosphere which pervades his pages. Connected with the *Century Magazine* throughout its career and with its predecessor, *Scribner's Monthly*, from its founding in 1870 to its renaming as *The Century* in 1881, Mr. Ellsworth has been closely in touch with American men and women of letters through a long period. What one principally treasures in his account is the impression that it gives of unaffected gentility, of high-mindedness and of right-mindedness, in those who built up our periodical literature.

The number of great literary personalities that figure in this book justifies the title: Stevenson, Stockton, Helen Hunt Jackson, Warner, Cable, Howells, Bret Harte, John Hay, Noah Brooks, Walt Whitman—one could fill a page with the names alone. If you are not interested in the older authors, you can read of Jack London and H. G. Wells. The reader will learn many curious things. He will find out in what manner many now famous authors, from Mary Wilkins to Charles D. Stewart, author of *The Fugitive Blacksmith*, were "discovered"; and how *Ben Hur* and other masterpieces nearly failed of publication.

The stories in this book are in general slight and casual; but they are all unhackneyed, and they have a quality of their own: the slightest of them is a revelation of character. When all is said, however, the most distinctive feature of the book is not its presentation of celebrities. If one had to choose between the stories of those already much written about and the author's accounts of persons notable enough in their way but much less widely and directly known to the world, one would unhesitatingly choose the latter. Much to be prized are the glimpses one gets in these pages of Timothy Cole, the engraver, of William Carey, of blessed memory, of Theodore DeVinne, founder of the DeVinne Press. In real human value the author's reminiscences of these and some others exceed even such familiar and authentic memories as those of Richard Watson Gilder and Hopkinson Smith.